UNITED NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/ICEF/1991/P/L.25
15 February 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Programme Committee
1991 session

FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATION FOR SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING FOR PROGRAMMES IN THE AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN REGION WITHOUT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING FROM GENERAL RESOURCES

SUMMARY

This document contains recommendations for supplementary funding in countries in the Americas and Caribbean region for which no recommendations for funding from general resources are requested at the 1991 Executive Board session. The project proposals submitted here are aimed at expanding or complementing ongoing programmes in the countries concerned. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve supplementary funding in the following amounts for the projects listed below, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions.

Country/programme	Amount (United States dollars)	Duration
Central America and Panama: water supply, sanitation and environmental education	20 000 000	1991-1995
Ecuador	1 000 000	1991-1993
Peru	11 000 000	1991-1992

Summaries of individual recommendations follow. A table setting out the planned annual phasing of expenditure for each supplementary funding proposal is given at the end of the document.

READEX FICHE

I. CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA: WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

1. The subregional water supply, sanitation and environmental education programme responds to the stated objectives of all Central American countries, as well as to the directive of the UNICEF Executive Board, to intensify efforts towards achieving the goal of universal access to safe water supply and sanitation by the year 2000.

2. Despite efforts undertaken during the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade (1981-1990), only about 63 per cent of the 28.4 million inhabitants of the seven countries of the Central American isthmus (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) have access to safe water and sanitation. Service is significantly lower in rural areas, where only 41 per cent have access to safe water. The lack of basic water supply and sanitation facilities is closely linked to the high incidence of diarrhoeal and intestinal diseases in the subregion. Diarrhoeal diseases are a major cause of child deaths in Central America, accounting for 38 per cent of the under-five mortality rate (U5MR) in Honduras, for example, and for over 30 per cent of child deaths in specific regions of other countries, such as certain areas of Nicaragua and among indigenous groups in Panama.

3. The lack of water supply also has a negative impact on the well-being and quality of life of the poorest sectors of the population. In many rural communities, water collection is one of the most time-consuming and labourious domestic chores performed by women and children. In many low-income urban neighbourhoods, the lack of a community water source results in poor families spending as much as 35 per cent of their monthly income purchasing water from private vendors.

4. A number of constraints have impeded the subregion's ability to increase access to water supply and sanitation facilities. Some are external factors such as economic adjustment problems, while others are internal, including the sector's limited institutional capacities, characterized by inadequately trained staff, staff shortages, inappropriate procedures and responsibilities and other managerial shortcomings; weak information and monitoring systems; and the inadequate application of low-cost and appropriate technologies, coupled with a bias towards upgrading and expanding urban water systems.

5. Since the late 1970s, UNICEF has been assisting Governments in the subregion to provide water supply and sanitation services in the poorest areas, utilizing an integrated development approach linked to health and hygiene education.

6. For the period 1991-1995, a comprehensive programme is proposed to reduce the incidence of water- and excreta-related diseases and to reduce the workload of women. In order to achieve those broad goals, the following objectives will be pursued:

(a) Providing improved, continuous, better quality and more accessible water supplies to unserved and underserved communities, and in greater quantities;

(b) Improving sanitary practices among the population, as well as a greater awareness of how to protect the environment through systematic health, hygiene and environmental education;

(c) Providing improved, low-cost and appropriate methods for the safe disposal of human waste;

(d) Protecting the environment through drainage and watershed management, tree planting and environmental education;

(e) Improving the technical and operational capacities of Governments to respond more effectively and efficiently to the water supply and sanitation needs of the poorest groups of the population, as well as enhancing their capacities to use internal and external resources efficiently to ensure better coverage.

7. Approximately 120,000 residents of urban marginal areas and 820,000 in rural areas will benefit directly from the programme. In addition, as the programme's institutional development component is aimed at improving the overall management of national programmes, it will have a beneficial effect on all water supply and sanitation services.

8. The programme will be guided by the following principles and strategies: (a) emphasis on low-income families residing in priority poverty areas; (b) the optimization of the health impact through health and hygiene education; (c) the application of the experience of UNICEF in Central America and globally; (d) utilization of a basic services approach, with a high degree of community participation in the planning, installation and maintenance of facilities; (e) the active involvement of women; (f) the design of facilities that avoid environmental degradation; and (g) the establishment of cost-recovery systems.

9. Subregional components will include (a) the development and application of appropriate technology; (b) health, hygiene and environmental education; (c) institutional development, including technical assistance, the exchange of experience and the improvement of information systems; and (d) social mobilization.

10. Country-level activities are planned, based on Government policies, past UNICEF cooperation and country-specific factors related to affordability, feasibility and sustainability. In El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, the programme's primary components will be water supply and environmental sanitation, complemented by comprehensive health and hygiene activities, while in Belize, Costa Rica and Panama, the focus will be on enhancing national capacities to achieve universal water supply by 1995.

11. In El Salvador, 67 of the poorest rural municipalities will benefit from the construction of mini-aqueducts and wells fitted with hand-pumps to reach 85 per cent coverage; 25,000 dry compost latrines will be installed; and community leaders and users will be trained in the operation and maintenance of the facilities.

12. In Guatemala, gravity-fed systems and hand-pumps will be constructed in 700 rural communities with populations under 500 inhabitants. The construction of 40,000 latrines is also planned, applying previous unutilized technologies such as composting and pour-flush water-sealed latrines. In urban areas, water supply will be expanded and complemented with public washing, sewage and garbage disposal facilities, in addition to tree planting for environmental protection.

13. In 30 barrios (slum neighbourhoods) in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, water supply systems will be implemented with cost-recovery components that will, in turn, support the extension of services to other marginal urban communities. Latrine construction will be complemented by a comprehensive social communication campaign to deliver hygiene and environmental education messages. In rural areas, UNICEF will cooperate with a non-governmental organization (NGO) in the construction of hand-drilled wells fitted with hand-pumps and of gravity-fed systems. Health, hygiene and environmental education, carried out through the schools, will complement community-level training.

14. In Nicaragua, 3,000 deep and shallow wells fitted with hand-pumps and 50 gravity-fed systems will be constructed in underserved rural areas. Sanitation needs will be met with the installation of about 25,000 latrines. All activities will count on a high degree of community participation. In addition, wells and latrines will be constructed for use by schools and health centres, while associated health education topics will be incorporated into the primary school curriculum.

15. In Belize, Costa Rica and Panama, where access to potable water is much higher, activities will be undertaken to mobilize resources, both internally and externally, to achieve universal water supply by 1995. In Belize, this will be complemented by strengthening Government capacity to construct and/or rehabilitate rainwater catchment systems and borewells. In Costa Rica and Panama, cooperation will support improved monitoring systems so that unattended pockets are identified and fully considered in new programme plans, in addition to the mobilization of commitment and resources and the use of low-cost technologies.

16. Subregional mechanisms will be established to ensure a high level of coordination with other international development agencies, including the United National Development Programme (UNDP), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the World Bank. In addition, country-specific components will be coordinated with those of bilateral agencies and NGOs active in the sector.

17. Comprehensive systems for monitoring and evaluating of the programme will be established, including data recording and reporting systems, the use of appropriate indicators and quarterly progress reports. At the local level, the UNICEF-supported sentinel-site methodology for health monitoring and evaluation will incorporate water supply and sanitation indicators to measure the impact of some of the programme interventions on personal hygiene practices and health indicators. The minimum evaluation procedure established by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the evaluation of water supply and sanitation projects will be utilized for both periodic and final evaluations. In each country, a national database and monitoring system will be established.

Estimated annual expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Country	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total
Belize	210	210	210	210	210	1 050
Costa Rica	100	100	100	100	100	500
El Salvador	600	600	600	600	600	3 000
Guatemala	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	5 000
Honduras	700	700	700	700	700	3 500
Nicaragua	973	987	887	826	877	4 550
Panama	100	100	100	100	100	500
Subregional	410	410	360	360	360	1 900
Total	4 093	4 107	3 957	3 896	3 947	20 000

II. ECUADOR

U5MR: 85
IMR: 61
GNP per capita: $1,120

Child population (0-15 years): 4,4 million
Literacy (male/female): 86/81 per cent
Access to health services: 75 per cent

One year-olds fully immunized against:

tuberculosis:	91 per cent
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus:	54 per cent
measles:	56 per cent
polio:	63 per cent

Pregnant women immunized against:

tetanus:	NA

18. Ecuador experienced economic problems during the 1980s. Since the onset of the economic crisis in 1982, real wages and the standard of living have dropped, while inflation rose to 86 per cent in 1988. The crisis has been attributed mainly to the decline of the price of oil and other export products and to the decrease in the flow of capital, which paralysed the export economy.

19. Because of the economic crisis, resources for social expenditures have decreased steadily. Allocations for education dropped from 26 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1982 to 18 per cent in 1989, while the allocation for health was reduced from 7 to 5 per cent during the same period. On the contrary, the percentage of GDP to service the external public debt rose from 21 per cent in 1982 to 24 per cent in 1989, and to about 27 per cent in 1990.

20. In order to lay the foundation for overcoming the economy's present dependence on oil, the Government is promoting the development of new export-oriented activities that progressively incorporate the urban and rural marginal population into productive activities. This policy aims to combat poverty and especially meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable groups, i.e., women and children.

Social communication and mobilization

21. In order to accelerate the implementation of the national development plan and reach more people, the Government has decided to strengthen the national communication system and to define a communication policy for social development.

22. The communication system of Ecuador includes different elements that operate in isolation. Some of the components of this system are as follows:

(a) The Secretaría Nacional de Comunicaciones (national communications secretariat) is responsible for regulating and channelling information and making it more democratic. Some attempts have been made to transform it into a communications secretariat for development, but it has yet to overcome its role and image as a political institution;

(b) The country's colleges of social communications train professionals in public relations and mass media, but with an inadequate grasp of production capacity. There is a need for professionals who are able to work in areas of communications planning for development and participatory and educational communications;

(c) The mass media are profit-oriented entities that devote little time to educational, developmental and mobilization activities. None the less, they have collaborated with the Government in supporting national campaigns for immunization and breast-feeding, among others;

(d) The radio and printed media convey a great deal of information generated at the local level, but social issues, particularly women's and children's problems, do not get the same level of exposure given to political and economic information.

23. Increased efforts have been made in recent years to reinforce national production, especially by television stations, because they have greater resources than independent production companies. However, their productive capacity is still technically inadequate. There is a need to train human resources in all areas, including the artistic, aesthetic and literary fields.

24. The current country programme, approved by the Executive Board in 1990 (E/ICEF/1990/P/L.12), has helped to bring the child into national focus, with the support of NGOs and concerned government representatives. The Government has requested UNICEF to continue a sensitization process, at all levels of society, about the critical situation of children and to mobilize public opinion. The Government is requesting UNICEF to expand its programme for the formulation of a coherent and effective information and communication policy as a function of national development requirements.

25. The Government seeks UNICEF cooperation (a) to continue the mass awareness process about the problems of children and women and to promote actions to reduce their level of poverty; (b) to support the mobilization of different government and private organizations for the solution of children's problems and the supply of services; (c) to enhance the participation of the poor as a means of increasing their access to basic services and improving the quality of life of children, women and families; and (d) to facilitate educational processes to ensure that children understand and protect their own rights.

26. The proposed social communication activities will include the following components.

Training

27. The objective is to train communicators of the Social Front which consists of the Ministries of Health, Social Welfare, Education and Labour and the Consejo Nacional de Desarrollo (national development council), NGOs and the mass media to identify the most effective channels of communications to reach different audiences, to design and produce communication materials and to evaluate the impact of this material on the behaviour of the target audiences. The Social Front is responsible for coordinating the production of communication materials to support developmental programmes, but lacks the technical and logistic capacity to do so.

28. UNICEF will support the Social Front by: (a) organizing two workshops per year to train 80 per cent of the media personnel, as well as government officials and NGO staff; (b) producing training packages for planning, communication, analysis and design of educational messages, for the production of print, radio and television materials and for evaluation techniques applied to communication; and (c) organizing training sessions for community leaders and/or agents on the efficient use of local forms of communication to enhance community participation and increase access to social services.

Production of an animated series

29. UNICEF will support the production of educational materials using animation. Support will be provided to organize training programmes for media professionals who will be directly involved in these activities.

Educational communication

30. Support will be provided (a) to produce educational materials for radio and television in short formats for a massive diffusion of Facts for Life and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; (b) to produce a schoolbook with messages from Facts for Life and the Convention, to be distributed through the formal education system; (c) to organize training courses for graphic artists for the productions of different posters on Facts for Life for a mobile exhibition in several cities in the country, for radio producers for the production of radio programme on the rights of the child and for journalists for the preparation of written reports on child survival and development (CSD); and (d) to support the establishment of a written information system on topics related to the survival and development of children and women. This system will operate through the mail and will include information of interest to professionals, students, artists, intellectuals and persons concerned with children's and women's topics.

Mobilization and organization of children

31. Those activities will be carried out in three yearly phases. In the first year, a group of children from different schools in Quito will go to the countryside to discuss the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child with rural children. In the second year, working children will organize a workshop for the production and sale of wooden articles with Facts for Life messages. The proceeds will directly benefit these same children, in the form of recreational activities. In the third year, a children's video workshop will be established where children can produce television spots on children's rights to be broadcast on commercial channels and in the schools, where they can discuss their experience.

Exchange of the experience with the Andean area

32. UNICEF will support the organization of a regional meeting of information and communications officials from the Andean countries to analyse the possibilities of applying the experience learned in this project to other countries in the Andean region.

Cooperating agencies

33. Cooperation will be coordinated with the Centro Internacional de Estudios Superiores en Periodismo para América Latina (International Centre for Higher Journalistic Studies for Latin America), the Asociación Latinamericana de Educación Radial, (Latin American Association of Radio Education), and the Catholic Communications Association-Latin America for the production of training modules and human resources training for Ecuador and the other countries in the Andean region.

III. PERU

U5MR: 119
IMR: 84
GNP per capita: $1,300

Child population (0-15 years): 8.5 million
Literacy (male/female): 90/75 per cent
Access to health services: NA

One year-olds fully immunized against:

tuberculosis: 61 per cent
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus: 58 per cent
measles: 52 per cent
polio: 59 per cent

Pregnant women immunized against:

tetanus: 12 per cent

34. The current country programme for Peru covers the period 1987-1992. However, the Government is requesting an expansion of UNICEF assistance in view of the unprecedented economic crisis that is affecting the country. The extended programme will include ongoing activities for health, education, nutrition, water supply and sanitation and children in especially difficult circumstances.

35. This proposal is a response to the urgent call made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, requesting the international community to support Peru and urging all the agencies of the United Nations system to multiply extraordinary and coordinated efforts in support of the country. Expanded UNICEF cooperation will benefit children and women who live in conditions of critical poverty.

36. Peru is facing a grave economic and political crisis that is hampering Government capacity to provide adequate services to the most vulnerable sectors of the population. The external debt problem, which hinders the country's access to external financial flows, together with an exceptionally severe drought, which required the declaration of a state of emergency, has worsened the already serious economic situation.

37. Poverty levels in Peru have risen dramatically. It is estimated that 13 million people, over 60 per cent of the total population, live in critical poverty, with an average per capita income of $14 per month. Of this poor population, over 6 million people are children under 14 years old and over 2 million are children under five years old.

38. Social indicators, mainly those related to maternal and child health, do not fully reflect the country's serious deterioration, either because of the success of actions specifically geared to improving child survival and development (CSD) (e.g. immunization campaigns and the campaign against diarrhoeal dehydration) or because of the slowness with which statistics change.

39. About 56 per cent of the population have no access to potable water in their homes, and 67 per cent have no basic sanitation service. Such figures are even worse for the departments located in the Andean zone.

40. To compensate for the social effects of the crisis, a social emergency plan was put into operation in August 1990. The plan foresees actions for improving nutrition, health and employment. It establishes an investment of $275 million for the first five months of implementation, out of the $415 million deemed necessary, which is expected to be obtained through the extraordinary support of external cooperation.

Health

41. Despite the high increase of vaccination coverage, which resulted from national immunization campaigns conducted in 1989, there are still almost 300,000 children under the age of one year who have not been immunized. The decrease of morbidity caused by vaccine-preventable diseases is evident.

According to the Directorate of Epidemiology of the Ministry of Health, the number of cases of polio reported in 1984 was 184, while in 1989 there were only 17 reported cases. A study conducted by the Cayetano Heredia University in 1989 showed that deaths due to diarrhoea were reduced by 28 per cent between 1986 and 1989.

42. The reduction of social expenditure is virtually paralysing institutional services and hindering the possibility of consolidating the accomplishments of recent years, especially in the area of child health.

43. In view of this situation, the Government is seeking UNICEF support (a) to conduct national immunization campaigns to sustain current levels; (b) to provide basic medicines for health centres and training to health staff on the management of revolving funds; (c) to strengthen the Directorate General of Maternal and Child Health of the Ministry of Health; (d) to establish 2,000 communal oral rehydration units; (e) to strengthen the capacity of the section of epidemiological surveillance of the Ministry of Health to monitor the impact of the crisis on the health of mothers and children; and (f) to consolidate and expand the participation of organized poor women in immunization actions.

Education

44. In Peru, about 12 per cent of children under 15 years old are illiterate. In 1989, there were 1,170,000 illiterate women. The country's average school enrolment rate is only 70 per cent, and 60 per cent of Peruvians reach the age of 15 years without having completed the school cycle. If the situation was to remain unchanged, out of the approximately 600,000 children who will enter first grade in 1991, 275,000 will drop out of school before completing the fifth grade and only some 100,000 will complete primary school. In addition, the budget of the education sector fell from $342 million in 1987 to $29 million in 1989.

45. For those reasons, the Government requests UNICEF assistance (a) to design experimental non-formal education models for women living in rural areas; (b) to produce educational materials to promote Facts for Life; (c) to train teaching staff who are voluntarily participating in CSD actions; (d) to provide initial non-formal education for 40,000 children in three of the country's poorest departments; and (e) to expand the coverage of non-formal initial education into the highlands and jungle regions.

Nutrition

46. Before September 1988, when the Government was forced to enact a structural adjustment programme (SAP), it was estimated that 39 per cent of Peruvian children were suffering from some kind of malnutrition. Since the price of the products comprising the basic family market basket rose to an equivalent of over four minimum salaries, the social, nutritional and health situations of the poor have been jeopardized. Some 8 million people living in the highlands and the jungle suffer from iodine deficiencies. An estimated 34 per cent of school-age children are affected by goitre.

47. To improve this situation, the Government has requested UNICEF to support (a) the creation of a national nutrition surveillance system, in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and PAHO; (b) the design of a national food aid plan, with the participation of the public sector, NGOs and other international agencies; (c) the regional social affairs secretariats for the diffusion of community-based nutrition surveillance practices; (d) the central and regional governments in establishing effective control mechanisms for using iodized salt in areas where endemic goitre is prevalent; (e) the promotion of the massive dissemination of growth charts among the 6,000 women's organizations in the country's 19 departments; (f) home food production for family consumption in 200 rural communities; (g) the distribution of iron and vitamin A capsules through the organized women's groups, feeding centres and supplementary food programmes; and (h) the promotion of breast-feeding at the national level.

Water supply and sanitation

48. In Peru, water is a scarce resource that is poorly used and distributed. About 44 per cent of the Peruvian population lack access to potable water and only 33 per cent have some kind of basic sanitation. The case of Lima, the capital, is particularly serious because, in order to meet the water needs of its growing population, an estimated 23.4 million cubic metres per second are currently needed, while actual supply is only 17.3 million cubic metres per second. This situation has been aggravated by the most serious drought in the last 30 years, which is significantly reducing the volume of water of the rivers, further worsening the already precarious and insufficient water supply.

49. The Government has initiated actions to alleviate the serious deficiencies in some of the most critical areas of Lima, as well as to improve water provision in some rural areas.

50. The Government has agreed that UNICEF should (a) support the National Inter-Institutional Committee in designing emergency projects for water supply in big city slums; (b) support the formulation of specific norms for the rationalization of water use in public establishments; (c) support public institutions such as the Servicio de Agua Potable y Alcantarillado de Lima (water supply and sewerage service of Lima) of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Housing, Health and Agriculture in expanding the adoption of low-cost technologies, which enhance popular participation; (d) supply water to 300,000 people in marginal urban areas through reservoirs and connections to public taps built and maintained by the communities; (e) train communal promoters for the treatment of water with chlorine and the control of the quality of water; (f) construct 25,000 latrines with community participation; and (g) organize administrative committees for water systems that are to be responsible for planning, executing and monitoring the activities and subsequent maintenance of the works on a voluntary basis.

Children in especially difficult circumstances

51. The number and intensity of the problems affecting children in especially difficult circumstances have increased significantly, either because of the deterioration of the economic situation or the growth and worsening of terrorist violence. The Instituto Nacional de Bienestar Familiar (national institute of family well-being) estimates that there are currently 3 million children under the age of 13 years at risk, of whom 325,000 are at high risk. In addition, one fourth of the children from 8 to 13 years of age from low-income households perform remunerated tasks.

52. The most urgent aspect to be addressed is the inadequate capacity of public institutions to assist the great number of children in difficult circumstances. The current approach is to confine the children within closed premises, which withdraws them from their environment and favours criminality. More specific analyses are needed to specify the quantity and quality of the clearly differentiated phenomena (working street children, street children, orphans or those affected by violence, etc.), and of the Children's Code, which has become totally obsolete.

53. UNICEF will support (a) the promotion of regional projects to pay attention to and protect children who are victims of armed conflicts; (b) the provision of technical assistance to the Ministry of Justice for the adaptation of norms to improve the situation of children in public institutions; (c) the training of personnel of those institutions; (d) the promotion of the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child among congressmen and the Ministry of Justice; (e) the training of personnel of the Children's Police Division; and (f) the use of the mass media to create public awareness of the dramatic increase in the number of children in difficult circumstances and on the nature and causes of their problems.

Social development

54. Income-generating activities will be established in the southern departments of the country to benefit some 200,000 women. A system will be developed through which the Government and the private sector will cooperate with the women's associations to establish self-reliant groups to articulate priorities and identify existing resources for income-generating activities.

Cooperation with other agencies

55. Inter-agency cooperation has become increasingly important because of the rapid deterioration of the country's situation and the subsequent rapid increase in its requirements for technical and financial support. Agreements for joint actions are already in operation with the World Food Programme (WFP), PAHO/WHO and the Centro Panamericano de Ingeniería Sanitaria y Ciencias del Ambiente (Pan American Centre for Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences) in the areas of food and nutrition, health and water supply and sanitation, respectively. In 1991, agreements will be concluded with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to promote income-generating activities.

Estimated annual expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

Country/programme	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	Total
Central America and Panama						
Water supply, sanitation and environmental education	4 093	4 107	3 957	3 896	3 947	20 000
Ecuador						
Social communication and mobilization	300	400	300	-	-	1 000
Peru						
Health	1 500	2 000	-	-	-	3 500
Education	700	800	-	-	-	1 500
Nutrition	500	500	-	-	-	1 000
Water supply and sanitation	1 000	1 000	-	-	-	2 000
Children in especially difficult circumstances	600	900	-	-	-	1 500
Social development	700	800	-	-	-	1 500
Subtotal	5 000	6 000	-	-	-	11 000
Total	9 393	10 507	4 257	3 896	3 947	32 000